

BUMEDINST 6150.36
BUMED-33
9 Jun 93

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6150.36

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
To: Ships and Stations Having Medical Department Personnel

Subj: CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION, PENSION, OR HOSPITALIZATION FILED
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BY NAVAL MEMBERS
BEING SEPARATED

Ref: (a) 10 United States Code 1218(a)
(b) NAVMILPERSCOMINST 1900.1B
(c) MILPERSMAN 3640472
(d) Marine Corps Order P1900.16D (NOTAL)
(e) MANMED art. 15-29
(f) MILPERSMAN 3640474
(g) Marine Corps Order 6320.2B (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To publish responsibilities of the Medical Department for providing records and claims filing support to Navy and Marine Corps separation activities processing Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) claims for compensation, pension, or hospitalization for members being separated from the Navy or Marine Corps.

2. Cancellation. NAVMEDCOM Instruction 6150.4A.

3. Background

a. Reference (a) requires that each member, before discharge or release from active duty due to physical disability, execute (or refuse to execute) a DVA claim for compensation, pension, or hospitalization. References (b), (c), and (d) amplify the provisions of reference (a).

b. Responsibility for submitting a complete claim package rests with the commanding officer of the activity actually separating the member, but custodians of medical and dental records are required to furnish records to separation activities to assure that each claim package is complete before forwarding to the appropriate DVA regional office.

c. The following items constitute a complete claim package:

(1) VA Form 21-526, Veterans Application for Compensation.

(2) DD 214 (copy 3), Armed Forces of the U.S. Report of Transfer or Discharge.

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(3) A complete copy of the member's health record (less jacket cover), including all physical examinations and sick call treatment records. References (d), (e), and (f) require that the separation physical examination must be included in the health record. If the member has appeared before a medical board, include a copy of the medical board report in the health record.

(4) A complete copy of the member's dental record (less jacket cover).

4. Action

a. General

(1) Medical Department facilities are strongly urged to maintain continuous liaison with separation activities which may require support, ensuring expeditious compliance with the provisions of this instruction.

(2) All Medical Department facilities must provide support to Navy and Marine Corps separation activities by furnishing necessary medical and dental record documentation in support of a member's claim for DVA compensation, pension, or hospitalization.

(3) A complete copy of the health record (less jacket cover) and dental record (less jacket cover) must be included in the claim package before submission to the DVA.

(4) Record custodians are reminded that separation activities are required to submit, within 5 working days following the member's separation, a complete claim package to the DVA regional office having jurisdiction over the locality in which the member intends to reside. Accordingly, requests for medical and dental records must be handled expeditiously.

b. DVA Compensation Claims

(1) When a member, hospitalized in a naval medical facility while being processed for disability separation, desires to initiate a claim for DVA compensation, assistance should be provided in completing VA Form 21-526. When the member is discharged from the sick list, forward the completed VA Form 21-526, accompanied by the member's service, medical, and dental records to the activity actually separating the member.

(2) When a member, hospitalized in a naval medical

facility while being processed for disability separation, does not desire to file a claim, he or she must be counseled and asked to sign a statement attesting to this fact per reference (c).

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(3) When a member initiates a claim at a separation activity for DVA compensation, the separation activity must request the Medical Department facility maintaining custody of the member's records to promptly provide the medical and dental records. Prompt response to such a request assures proper adjudication of the member's claim by the DVA and reduces the possibility of hardships.

5. Forms. VA Form 21-526, Veterans Application for Compensation, is available from the nearest DVA regional office.

The completed DD 214, Armed Forces of the U.S. Report of Transfer or Discharge, will be provided by the local personnel support detachment (PERSUPPDET) for Navy personnel or the administrative support activity designated in reference (g) for Marine Corps personnel.

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